REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Claims:

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-14 and 17-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-14 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. (US 5,741,183). As Applicant does not believe Acres teaches the subject matter of claims 1-5, 8-14 and 17-19, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 20 to more distinctly claim the present invention. Specifically, structural components of the present invention have been claimed to show that the present invention is directed to a game of competition between players in a game of skill. Support for these amendments can be found in Figure 1 and on page 2 lines 17-22. These limitations show the structural differences between the claimed invention and the prior art.

Acres fails to teach a plurality of player stations which are configured to allow players to compete against each other in a game of skill. The gaming devices of Acres deal with games of chance. Specifically, Acres deals with slot machines, where players add money to the machine and either press a button or pull a lever. There is nothing skillful about pulling a lever. There is no mention of games of skill anywhere within Acres. The Examiner's assertion that casino games on a network allow players to compete to win a jackpot is now moot as skill is not involved in such casino games. Therefore, claims 1, 9, 18 and 20 are allowable. The rejection is respectfully traversed. As Applicant believes independent claims 1, 9, 18 and 20 recite allowable subject matter, claims 2-5, 8, 10-14, 17 and 19 which depend therefrom, would also be allowable. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection of Claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres. As Applicant believes independent claims 1 and 9 recite allowable subject matter, claims 6, 7, 15 and 16, which depend therefrom, would also be allowable. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

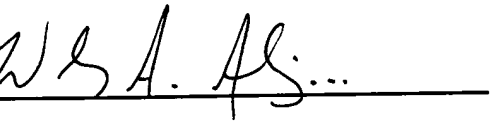
Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 18 and 20. Applicant has also distinguished the subject matter of the present invention over the teachings of the references cited as prior art by the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and entry of the present amendment and allowance of the application as amended is earnestly requested. If, however, the Examiner maintains his rejection, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested as reducing the number of issues and placing this application in better condition for appeal.

Telephone inquiry to the undersigned in order to clarify or otherwise expedite prosecution of the present application is respectfully encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/13/05

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